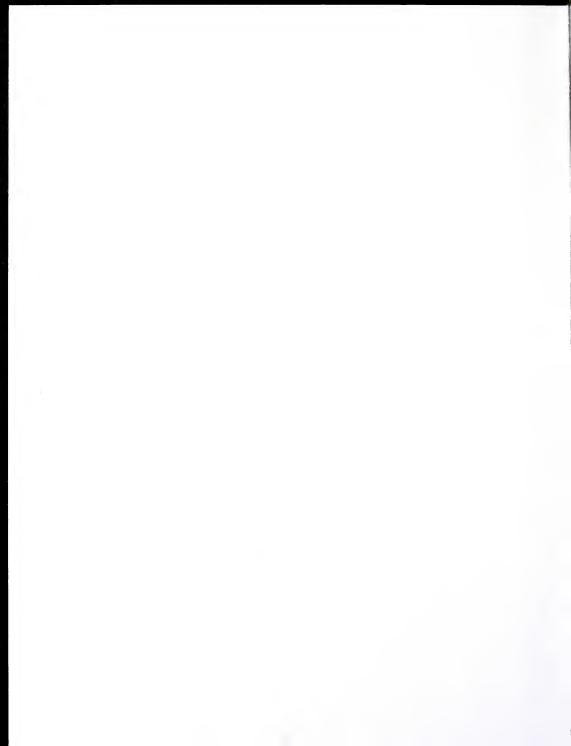


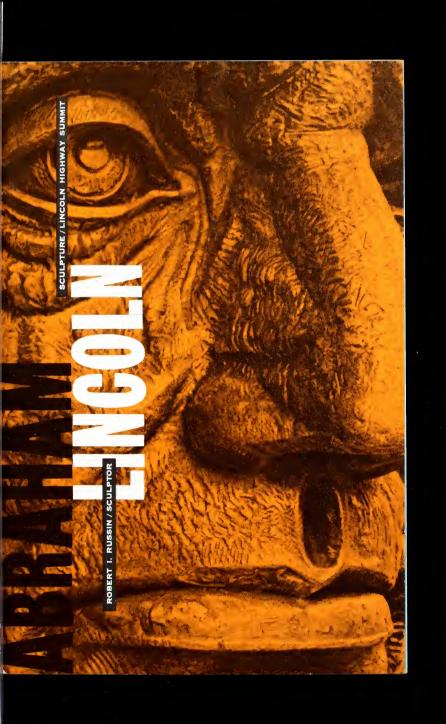
Statues of Abraham Lincoln

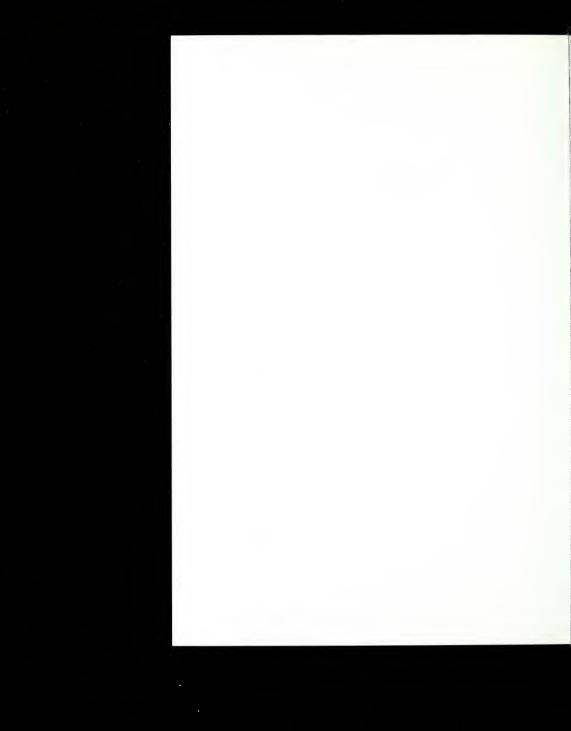
Robert Russin

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection







The world's largest
bronze head of Abraham Lincoln was
dedicated at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, October 18, 1959
as a part of Wyoming's
celebration of the 150th year
after Lincoln's birth.

It will serve as the focal point of a new roadside park.

The 12½-foot,

three and one half ton head,

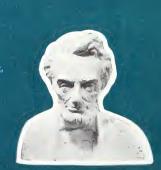
the work of University of Wyoming art professor and sculptor, Robert I. Russin,

rests on top of a 30-foot native granite stone base

at the summit of U.S. Highway 30, ten miles southeast of

LARAMIE, WYOMING.





the head was first sculpted in clay, then cast in 63 large plaster sections,

in Mexico City. finally cast in bronze at the Fundicion Artistica



U.S. SENATOR GALE W. McGEE OF WYOMING

WAS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION EXERCISES.



OTHER SPEAKERS WERE

PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING: G. D. HUMPHREY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, LINCOLN SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS: E. C. SMITH PRESIDENT, WYOMING HIGHWAY 30 ASSOCIATION: LOUIS BOSCHETTO

KEITH THOMSON

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR WYOMING : KEITH THOM
GOVERNOR OF WYOMING : J. J. HICKEY

DONOR OF THE STATUE : DR. CHARLES W. JEFFREY, RAWLINS, WYOMING

THE SCULPTOR : ROBERT I. RUSSIN

MINISTER, UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LARAMIE, WYOMING : REV. JOHN P. McCONNELL



SPEAKERS AT THE DEDICATION

SHERRELL

ď Ö

GALE



CHARLES W. JEFFREY LOUIS BOSCHETTO ij NORWAN MRS. ui

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING BAND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CHARLES P. SELTENRICH PLAYED AT THE DEDICATION.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES WAS T. A. LARSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE LARAMIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF THE DEDICATION ACTIVITIES.



May I congratulate Chamber of Commerce officials and others who have had a part in planning this program today. It is certainly a memorable occasion for all of Wyoming, and particularly for those of us at the University and in Laramie.

In my early years I was very much interested in history—especially American history—and I had the privilege of teaching it for a good many years. After studying and teaching the biographies of our country's great leaders, I came to the conclusion that the three Presidents who most typified our American heritage and way of life were Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.

Although a number of years have passed since I arrived at that conclusion, and I am no longer working in the field of history, I have not changed my opinion that these three men, more than any others, really represent what America stands for.

It is very fitting, I feel, that we should do honor here today to the great Emancipator in dedicating this magnificent statue in his honor. Made possible by the generosity of one of Wyoming's outstanding citizens, Dr. C. W. Jeffrey, and sculpted by the University's own Professor Robert I. Russin, the statue will stand here on the Lincoln Highway throughout the years as a reminder to everyone who passes by that Wyoming and its University will always honor and cherish the principles for which Lincoln stood.

E. C. SMITH: SECRETARY, HIGHWAY 30 ASSOCIATION

I am happy for the privilege that has been afforded me on this happy occasion to express on behalf of the Lincoln System of Highways, its President, Ray McKim of Grand Island, Nebraska, who unfortunately cannot be here today, its officers and members, our appreciation and gratitude for the great work of art which will be shortly unveiled to you. We know it will be one of the top attractions for the millions who pass this way each year. To the two fine citizens of our beloved State, Dr. C. W. Jeffrey of Rawlins, Wyoming, who so generously provided the funds, and Robert Russin of Laramie and the University of Wyoming, the sculptor, we acknowledge an eternal debt of gratitude. Our "thank you" is small payment indeed for this wonderful gift, but we know that you will be fully rewarded in the knowledge that each day, you will be contributing to the pleasure and delight of the hundreds and thousands of travelers who pass this way.

HONORABLE KEITH THOMSON: UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE TODAY FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. . . .

I KNOW THAT THE GREAT MAN WHOM WE HONOR HERE AND WHOSE STATUE WE PLACE HERE, ON THE SUMMIT OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE SIDE OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL HIGHWAY WHICH BEARS HIS NAME, WOULD BE INDEED PLEASED AND HONORED WITH THIS RECOGNITION, AND EVEN MORE SO FOR WHAT IT STANDS.

WE ARE ALL DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE FACT THAT DR. JEFFREY HAS CHOSEN THIS ENDEAVOR AS A MEANS OF EXPRESS-ING HIS CONFIDENCE IN OUR AMERICA.

WHAT PRESIDENT LINCOLN STOOD FOR WAS UNITY OF COUNTRY AND UNITY OF PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLE. THIS IS THE GREATEST HONOR THAT WE CAN PAY HIS MEMORY—THAT ALL OF US ARE DEDICATED TO THOSE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH HE LIVED AND DIED.

FOR MR. RUSSIN, WHO TENDS TO BE MODERN IN MOST OF HIS WORK, THE LINCOLN HEAD WAS A RETURN TO REALISTIC SCUIPTURE. HE CREATED A "RROODING, CONTEMPLATIVE LINCOLN" WHOSE FACE IS MARKED WITH A DEEP CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY. THE SCUIPTOR STRESSED THE QUALITY OF SIMPLE NOBILITY WHICH, HE SAYS, LINCOLN SYMBOLIZES SO WELL FOR ALL AMERICA.

"WHAT LINCOLN SAID AND STOOD FOR IN HIS TIME," RUSSIN SAYS, "IS STILL OF GREAT IMPORT TO OUR COUNTRY IN TODAY'S WORLD OF CHANGING VALUES."

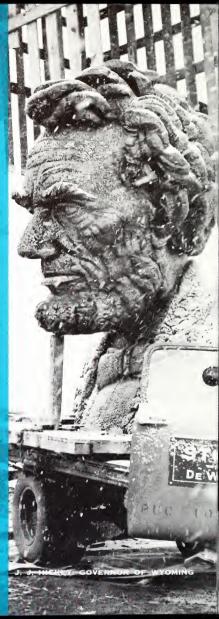
THAT SHOULD BE THE PROPOSITION TO WHICH THIS STATUE IS DEDICATED — THE LIVING PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH LINCOLN STOOD.

he presence here today of so many residents from throughout the State of Wyoming is silent testimony of the gratitude of a great State to you Doctor Jeffrey, as the donor, and to you Professor Russin as the creator of this outstanding monument.

The dedication of the Lincoln Monument today is a highlight in the history of Wyoming. We who grew up and established businesses along the small interstate highway that bore the name of the Great Emancipator, today view the dedication and the magnificent highway running immediately below the monument with some nostalgia.

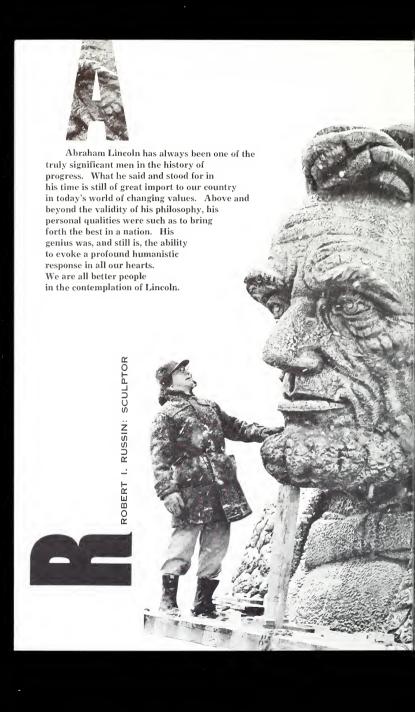
As I look over the crowd here assembled, I see the faces of many people who operated businesses along the interstate highway in the southern part of Wyoming and who adopted it as a name for their particular business which catered to the traveling public, because it was then the only known name of the highway. The many Lincoln Highway business houses which stretched across the State were all mute testimony of the love of the people for the name of the Great Emancipator.

Throughout the years as we watched this tiny ribbon grow to the magnificent laned traffic artery it is today, we have seen the numerical designation change on several occasions and have noted that the original name given because of the fact that it was a farsighted plan of our great President Lincoln. whose foresight and faith lay in the great West of the United States, become less and less the name of this great highway. Therefore, I would charge each of you today in commemoration of the event sponsored here to leave this place with the dedication that you will restore the use of the name Lincoln Highway and perhaps insist upon the use of the red, white and blue marker which originally designated this, as the great national highway bearing the name of Abraham Lincoln.



FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT HERE ON TOP OF THE THE LARAMIE MOUNTAINS WE SEE TO THE SOUTH THE FRONT RANGE OF THE ROCKIES AND AS YOU ASCEND THESE LARAMIE PEAKS, YOU GATHER IN THE MAGNIFICENCE OF GOD'S TOWERING STATUES IN GEOLOGY. AND YET, WHEN YOU TRAVEL CLOSE UP TO THOSE PEAKS, WHEN YOU'RE AT THEIR RASE, THEIR REAL STATURE SEMS LOST UPON YOU. IT IS ONLY WHEN YOU ACQUIRE THE PERSPECTIVE OF DISTANCE AND HEIGHT THAT THEIR POWER AND THEIR INTENSITY ENCROACH UPON YOU. AND THIS EXACTLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN HISTORY. AS WE HAVE RECEDED FROM THIS HISTORIC MOMENT IN THE PAST AND HAVE ACQUIRED THE PERSPECTIVE OF TIME AND THE JUDGMENT, THE DEEP JUDGMENT OF EXPERIENCE, LINCOLN HAS GROWN, AND STILL GROWS, IN THE EYES OF ALL. MEN.

LINCOLN COUPLED WITH THIS LOVE AND DEDICATION TO THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT A PERSPECTIVE OF HISTORY NOT ALWAYS COMMANDED BY STATESMEN IN GOVERNMENT. HE WAS FOND OF SAYING THAT "WE CANNOT SECAPE HISTORY," BUT HE WAS ALSO QUICK TO SAY THAT "NEITHER MUST WE BE SHACK, LED BY IT," AND THE QUOTATION ON THE FRONT OF THIS MONUMENT REFLECTED THE REAL DYNAMISM OF LINCOLN'S PHILOSOPHY. OF HISTORY WHEN HE SAID, "THE DEAD DOGMA OF THE PAST SHOULD NOT RESTRAIN US NOR HOLD US BACK FROM TACKLING THE TURMOIL OF THE PRESENT. AND THUS WE MUST THINK ANEW AND ACT ANEW," IT'S IN THIS PHILOSOPHY OF LINCOLN THAT WE FIND THE ARCHITECTURAL OUTLINES FOR AMERICA TODAY AND TOMORROW. FOR IT'S HERE THAT WE CAN MINE A WEALTH OF IDEAS FOR WHICH THE WORLD IS IN SEARCH AT THIS MOMENT. THE WORLD KNOWS LINCOLN . AND SO IT IS FROM THE CHINA SEA, TO INDIA, TO AFFICA, TO RUSSIA, A MESSAGE FROM LINCOLN, AN INSPIRATION THAT GUIDES THEIR PUBLIC CONDUCT. THIS BECOMES AMERICA'S OF-PORTUNITY. AND WHAT GREATER THRILL THAN TO ATTRACT AND TO PROMOTE AND TO JOIN WITH THESE FEOPLE IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN WHOM THEY AIREADY UNDERSTAND, WHO ALREADY HAS INSPIRED THEM TO THE CAUSES THAT WE OURSELVES HOLD MOST DEAR TO OUR COUNTRY. THIS IS AMERICA'S GREAT OPPORTUNITY. LINCOLN BECOMES THE GREAT TEACHER OF ALL.



The summit of the Lincoln Highway is located in a land of such incomparable sweep and grandeur that it inevitably suggested the thought of a Lincoln statue when first I saw it some twelve years ago. As I stood before the ageless drama of the mountains and valleys which summoned up the epical meaning of Lincoln, I knew that someday the monument would come into being.

In creating the statue, I have tried to depict a brooding, contemplative Lincoln in the last years of his life, his great heart sorrowing over the rent nation. It is his vision of Democracy, strengthened by both resolution and compassion, which is the core of the plastic form. The ruggedness of the hills falling away into the breadth of the valley below finds an echo in the rugged vigor of his face. The splendor of the landscape is recalled in the nobility of his character. Towards the east the vertical cliffs are reflected not only in the vertical stress of Lincoln's face, but in the upward thrust of the granite base. Special care has been taken to weld the monument to its locale. In the surge of the valley to the south, and in the upland on every horizon, I have tried to make a Lincoln at one with his surroundings.

The character of Lincoln is a complex one, and if the observer will study the head from various viewpoints, there will be seen the backwoodsman as well as the President, the humorist and the philosopher, the man of inflexible purpose as well as the man of selfless humility.

So many people have helped in the creation of this monument that I know I do an injustice to name but a few. Dr. Charles W. Jeffrey has been exemplary as a donor and friend. Both Gov. Simpson and Gov. Hickey gave generously of their time and counsel. Various agencies of the Mexican government, in particular the National Railways of Mexico, were unusually cooperative. The Fundicion Artistica of Mexico City worked in the grand tradition in casting the large head into bronze with care and dispatch. Ambassador Robert C. Hill and his staff in the U. S. Embassy cooperated to the full in expediting the work. To all of these people and agencies I am indebted, as well as to the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming State Parks Commission, the U. S. Forest Service, the Ft. Warren Air Base Command, the Wyoming Highway Department, and the Chambers of Commerce of Laramie and Chevenne. And to all the good friends in Wyoming who have encouraged me in completing this task, I have a special debt.

My hope is that all who stop and linger at the monument may have the inclination to contemplate the meaning of Lincoln, and come away renewed and refreshed by the nobility of man.

The Dedication Exercises

and this Brochure were sponsored by
the Laramie Chamber of Commerce,
the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce,
and the Lincoln System of Highways.

THE WASHINGTON DEDICATION



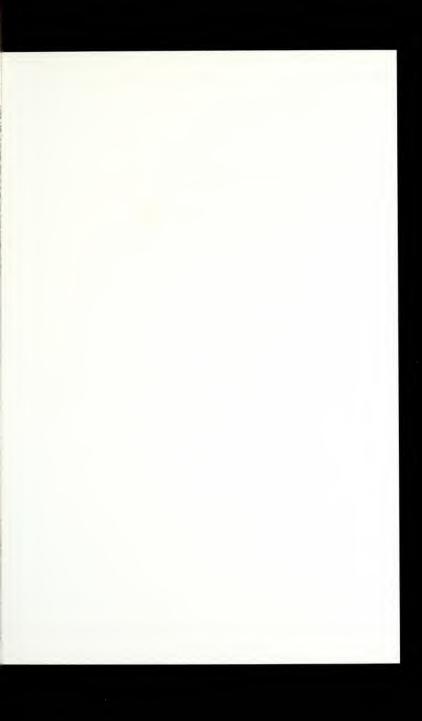
PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION

God of all nations and our God, who has given us this great land for our heritage and through the work of man hast bound it together with highways; who in times of crisis hast raised up leaders who have led us forward toward the goals of our founding Fathers; who can'st use the resources and talents of men to adorn Thy handiwork; we give Thee thanks for the great American we honor this day and the highway which to many of us still bears his name.

In this day of anonymity when highways and people are becoming mere numbers in our social system, we are grateful for this individual who represents the best of our heritage. We pray that this monument may remind all who see it of the heritage which is ours and the responsibility which we today share to extend to others what we so richly enjoy.

To the memory of Abraham Lincoln and the great spirit which characterized the man; to the acceptance of our responsibility to carry forward the goals he envisioned; to the acceptance by us of his mantle of compassion and service, we dedicate this monument . . . and now go in peace, and the peace of God that passeth all understanding keep your minds and hearts this day through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REVEREND JOHN P. McCO



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LINCOLN MONUMENT

LINCOLIN MINIONENEST LINCOLIN

P324882

POST CARD

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Shoshone Distributing Co., Inc., P.O. Box 8, Cody, Wyoming 82414

Cheyenne: The Sunshine, Capital

Cheyenne and vicinity, Fog. low clouds
and snow flurries
tonight: Cloudy and
a little warmer Saturday: Low 25 to 30.
High near 50.

(Record to beat 162 days)

FINAL EDITION
LATEST MARKETS

The Temperature at 3 p. m. Today:

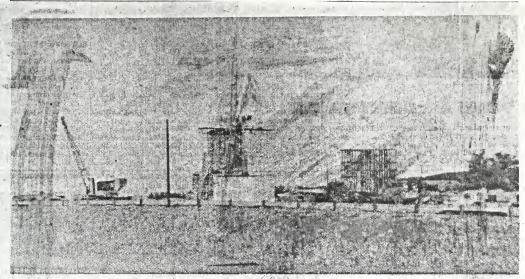
Tribune Leader-Sun, Vol. 65, No. 248 Leader, Vol. 83, No. 12

Cheyenne, Wyoming, Friday, October 16, 1959 20 PAGES

Price 5 Cents

See 200





THIS WAS the scene, atop Sherman Hill yesterday, as workmen rushed completion of a native stone column which will support a massive three-ton likeness of

Abraham Lincoln. The 121/2-foot bust is contained in the crate aboard the truck at the right; the column on which it will be erected is at the center of the picture, adjacent to the highest crane. The bust is a bronze casting of sculpture by Robert Russin, University of Wyoming art professor. The park is adjacent to Highway 30, at the highest transcontinental highway point in the nation, Dedication ceremonies are planned Sunday at 2:30 p.m. (Photo by Brammar)

ncoln Bust Dedicatio

Gov. Joe Hickey and two members of Wyoming's congressional delegation will be on hand Sunday for the unveiling of a three-ton bust of Abraham deliver the main address, and Lincoln on the summit of Sherman Hill west of Chevenne, Sen. Gale McGee, who will

Rep. Keith Thomson (R-Wyo.) will attend, along with former Gov. Milward Simpson, Univer-

sity of Wyoming President G. D. Humphrey, and a other Cheyenne and Laramie community leaders. The ceremony is planned at 2:30 p.m.

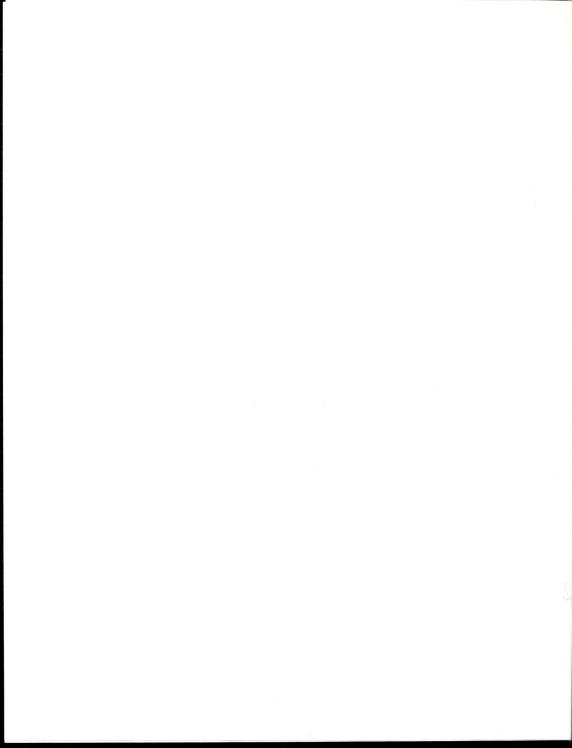
The massive, 121/2 foot high bust will rest alop a 30-foot granite stone hase at the highest point on U.S. Highway 30.

Robert R. Russin, UW art professor who sculptured the bust, and Dr. Charles W. Jeffrey, of Rawlins, who financially sponsored the project, will also be present for the unveiling.

The giant statue will serve as focal point of a roadside park planned by the Wyoming Highway Department and the U.S. Forest Service.

The ceremony, sponsored by the Laramie and Cheyenne chambers of commerce and the U.S. Highway 30 association, will get national attention. NBC's radio monitor will cover the unveiling. Bob Verdon of Cheyenne KFBC will provide the verbal description.

Master of ceremonies will be Dr. T. A. Larson, history professor at the UW.

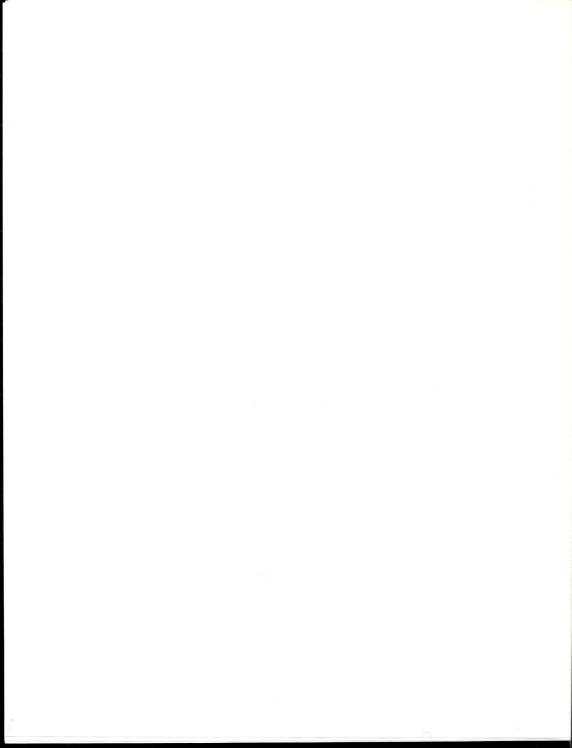




UNVEILING

Twelve-foot bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln is unveiled during ceremonies near Laramie, Wyo. Giant bust rests on 30-foot native granite stone base at highest point on Lincoln Highway. (AP Wirephoto)

Chi- Sun-Times - 10-20-59



Huge Bronze Head of Lincoln Marks Summit of Highway

On the highway maps the route that follows much of the Old Oregon Trail is simply "Highway 30."

But to most of the residents of southeastern Wyoming it's still "the Lincoln Highway." And honoring the great martyr president, a heroic bronze head of Abraham Lincoln stands in silent watch at the 8800foot summit of this storied east-west route.

The great monument was dedicated October 18, 1959, as the high point of Wyoming's commemoration of the 150th year after Lincoln's birth on February 12, 1809. From its site at the top of the Laramie mountains ten miles southeast of frontier-famous Laramie, it commands a view of sweeping grandeur.

Largest in the World

Standing 12½ feet tall and weighing three and one-half tons, the monumental bronze is the largest head of Lincoln in the world. It rests atop a 30-foot base of native granite and is the focal point of a new roadside park.

A constant reminder of the cherished principles for which Lincoln stood, the statue was made possible by the generosity of one of Wyoming's outstanding citizens, Dr. Charles W. Jeffrey of Rawlins. A retired physician, he is widely known for his benefactions, especially to University of Wyoming.

Six Months in Making

Robert I. Russin, professor of art at the University, was chosen as sculptor. He created "...a brooding, contemplative Lincoln in the last years of his life, his great heart sorrowing over the rent nation."



Giant statue of Abraham Lincoln broods over summit of Lincoln Highway (Highway 30).

Monument stands at crest of Laramie Mountains, southeast of Laramie, Wyoming.

The statue was six months in the making. Russin first created it in clay. It then was cast in 63 large plaster sections. Final work was in Mexico City where it was cast in bronze by skilled artisans at Fundicion Artistica.

In the words of the sculptor, the statuc reflects the hope "... that all who stop and linger at the monument may have the inclination to contemplate the meaning of Lincoln, and come away renewed and refreshed by the nobility of man."



Wyoming's Huge Bust of Lincoln

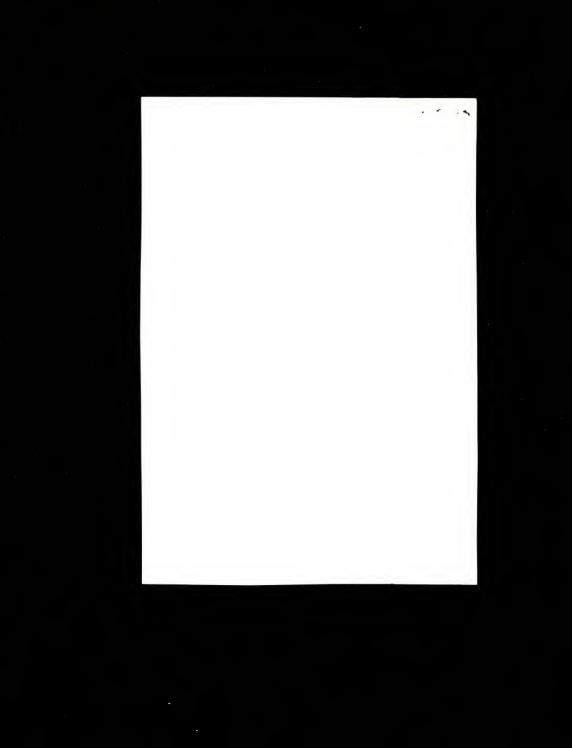
A sculptor's impressive tribute to Honest Abe fits the landscape and the man

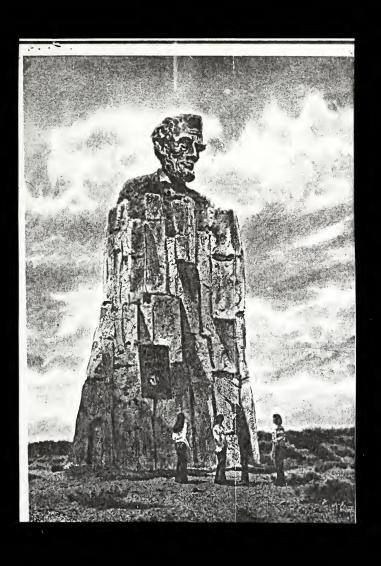
STANDING IN the Abraham Lincoln Memorial in Washington. D.C., it may be hard to concentrate on the beauty of Daniel Chester French's well-known statue of the nation's 16th president. That is, if you have visited another artistic tribute to Lincoln hundreds of miles from the Capital; one which captures the spirit of Lincoln as expressed by Edwin Markham:

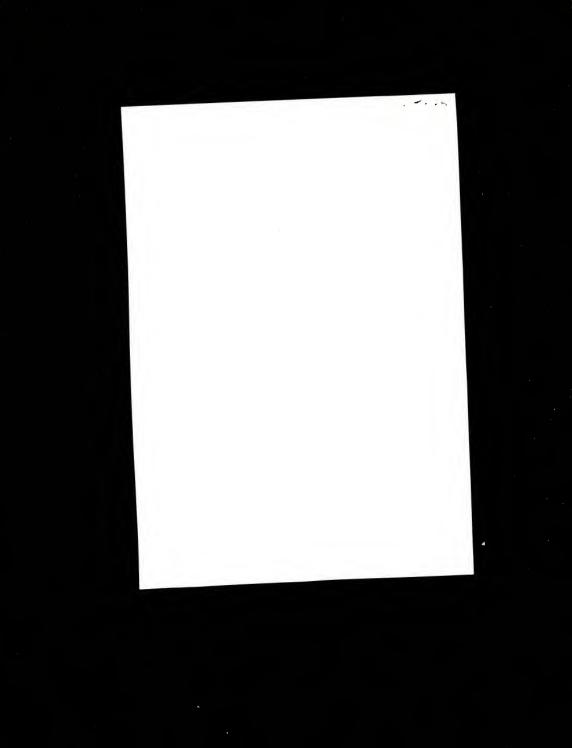
The color of the ground was in him, the red earth, The smack and tang of elemental things: The rectitude and patience of the cliff And when he fell in whirlwind, he went down As when a lordly cedar, green with boughs, Goes down with a great shout upon the hills, And leaves a lonesome place against the sky.

Between Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming, there is a magnificent cast bronze rendering of the head of Abraham Lincoln which was created by Robert I. Russin, a sculptor who attributed his treatment of the subject to his own move west.

"Thirty years ago when we moved from the East I didn't even know where Wyoming was," Russin remembered. "But







our son had asthma and we had to do something. The open spaces had an effect, and not just on our breathing. Undoubtedly, this land—the mountains, shapes, rocks—has influenced my work." It's certainly evident in his Lincoln bust which measures 13 feet from the tip of the hair to the shoulder, and which sits atop a 30-foot pedestal of 120 tons of native Wyoming granite, the rocks cut from a single boulder.

A professor of art at the University of Wyoming since 1947, Russin is widely respected for his smaller fine wood or marble sculptures. Why, then, this huge statue of Lincoln?

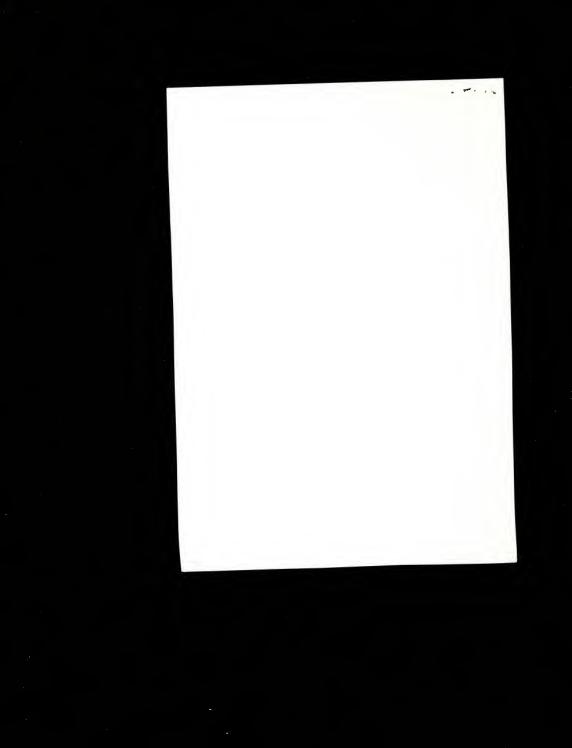
"My father came to America for reasons of the spirit, and he instilled Lincoln-love in me early. Sandburg and all that. When I married and had children, we even named a son Lincoln," he said. "After moving to Wyoming, we often drove to the apex of the Lincoln Transcontinental Highway. I couldn't get it out of my mind what a great place it would be for a Lincoln status."

Russin began in the fall of 1958, after a long search for philanthropic backing. Working in a rented shed near the Fundicion Artistica in Mexico City (one of only two North American foundries that could do such an immense job), Russin fashioned a working model, deliberately accentuating the rough, craggy qualities he felt were Lincoln's. He chose textures and techniques to fit the Wyoming countryside.

The intricate casting completed, the bronze head moved by railroad flatcar to Wyoming; at Laramie, it was transferred to a large truck and carried to the Lincoln Memorial Highway site.

Unfortunately, construction of Interstate 80 a few years later detoured the Lincoln statue entirely. Giving in to overwhelming public sentiment, the Wyoming Highway Department moved the statue from its original site to its present location, nine miles east of Laramie on I-80. Some people believe that the bust fit more esthetically in the original site. There Lincoln seemed to brood down as if still worrying over his people; while time and nature have only slightly mellowed the newer setting.

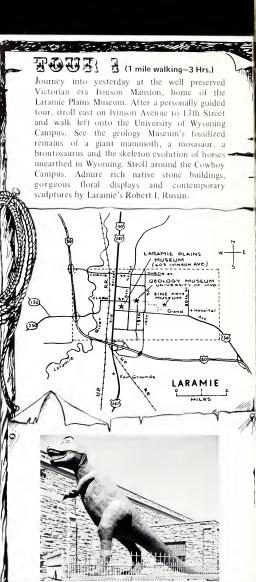
But wherever Russin's work is placed, it would be inspiring. It is fitting that thousands of tourists may pause beneath it, amid perpetual wind and the sharp scent of pine, and capture the essence of a man who had "the rectitude and patience of the cliff."

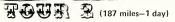


MINI TOURS









"Westward Ho" 11 miles on Hwy, 130 to historic Overland Trail ruts carved into the earth more than 100 years ago by early pioneers. Continue into the majestic Medicine Bow National Forest. Fish in pristine mountain lakes and streams. Hike winding nature trails studded with breath taking views at every turn, Photograph the rugged grandeur of Mirror Lake and Lake Marie. Descend from the Snowy Range to bathe in Saratoga's hot mineral pool. Explore the Grand Encampment Museum and Ghost Town, precipitated by a rich copper find in 1897, then return to Laramie by

